of the lymphatic system is well described, as well as pathologic disorders. Imaging and clinical presentation are well documented, which makes this chapter easy to read and very helful.

Colour photography would be much appreciated for the clinical and surgical pictures, although this would increase the price. This book should be considered by vascular trainees and vascular surgeons as one of the key references in this field.

J. G. Kretz
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Yearbook of Vascular Surgery, 1997
J. M. Porter, ed. Mosby, 1997. 560 pages, price $86.

This yearbook represents one of the more entertaining methods of keeping up to date. As with the other members of this yearbook family, the present book on Vascular Surgery presents a selection of article abstracts which represent significant advances or contain important statements of clinical principles. Each of the 321 abstracts is followed by a complementary placing the obtained data in a relevant perspective. What makes this yearbook of Vascular Surgery particularly worthwhile is the often personal and sarcastic comments from the editor John Porter. Not only do these comments point straight to the weaknesses or other critical issues of the papers but also introduce the CDA (Camel Dung Award). This award, introduced last year, is awarded "for boring repetition of established dogma", "for yet another statement of what every vascular surgeon on the planet already knows, ", or "for reaching grandious conclusions wholly unsupported by the presented data" in addition to a number of other similar reasons. Overall the language in the commentaries is very flowery, although a glimpse of the editor's descent is seen now and then.

The abstracts are separated into 17 chapters starting with basic considerations, endovascular techniques, vascular lab and so forth, going through the usual problems and ending up with portal hypertension. One of the major advantages with this format of book is that several papers on similar topics are grouped together and thereby provide the reader with a wider view of various problems. Also, the possibility of including related problems which are usually not dealt with in vascular surgical magazines can easily be reviewed in this way. One obvious drawback is that the choice of papers to some extent depends on the editor's prejudice as well as areas of interest. The weighting of the various topics follows the usual format seen at vascular symposias during which the work taking up more than 50% of the vascular surgical surgeon's time, i.e. leg ischaemia, make up 10–15%. With the overwhelming literature available, it is impossible to keep up with all aspects of the speciality, and the present book, therefore, also represents a good way of being presented with less monumental observations; for instance, the data indicating that athletes, especially runners and cyclists, may develop external iliac artery lesions, or the possibility of assessing renal artery stenosis by insonation of the segmental or subsegmental renal arteries. Also, several curious incidents are reported to the reader, e.g. complete retrograde aortic dissection after bilateral iliac artery stenting, or two cases of extra-corporeal shock wave lithotripsy inducing abdominal aortic aneurysm rupture.

In conclusion, this annual review of vascular surgery and related topics represents an excellent way of reviewing the field of vascular surgery, and in particular some of the literature which might not otherwise be read. In addition, the comments by the editor are entertaining and in some instances help put the message into perspective.

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Red Blood Cell Substitutes: Basic Principles and Clinical Applications
A. S. Rudolph, R. Rabinovici and G. Z. Feurerstien, eds. Marcel Dekker, 1997. 487 pages, price $175.00.

It was ironic that I received this book for review on the day that I wrote to my patients with inherited bleeding disorders informing them of the risk of new variant CJD associated with blood and blood products prepared from U.K. donors. In contrast to the advances in technology that have allowed the preparation of recombinant clotting factors, the situation with cellular products has lagged behind. This book comprehensively covers all aspects of the field, including attempts to provide reliable and safe red cell substitutes.

The three editors, each of whom has made major contributions to the area, have assembled 55 primarily North American experts from the fields of academia, industry, the military and the regulatory authorities to write the 21 chapters. All areas of importance are covered in detail, from the background of the need for substitutes, to the physiology of oxygen transport, the problems with toxicity as well as the expected